

**SECRET****VIL'NYUS****1. Location**

The city is located at the confluence of the Vilnia and Neris Rivers.

**a. Administrative**

(1) Vil'nyus is the capital of the Lithuanian SSR.

**2. History**

a. The city's role in World War II:

(2) The city was occupied by the Germans from 24 Jul 41 to 12/13 Jul 44. The following names of city commanders could be ascertained:

↳ Lt. Col. Zehnpenning, Feldkommandantur 814, 7 Jul - 1 Aug 41

1 Aug 41 Vil'nyus was turned over to German civil administration under a Gebietskommissar and the command of troops was placed under the Wehrmachtbefehlshaber Ostland.

Immediately after the retreat of the Russians, Lithuanian activists managed to assume power in the city and county of Vil'nyus under the leadership of University Professor Zakavicius. Attempts were made to give the city a purely Lithuanian character, ignoring all other population elements.

In Jul 1941 the Germans discovered the existence of a secret Jewish-Polish organization whose aim it was to reestablish Poland's sovereignty by force. The organization, which was said to have been very strong, was scattered over sections of the city and county of Vil'nyus, was armed, and possessed a clandestine radio transmitter. The Germans expected to annihilate this organization shortly.

Poles and White Ruthenians were often attacked by Lithuanians. The Germans welcomed the aggressiveness of the Lithuanians against the Jews. All Jews were removed from public positions. (Jul and Aug 1941)

**3. Population**

Statistical information on the city's population, obtained from files of the 403rd Sicherungs Division, dated 18 Jul 41:

Population at outbreak of the war in Sep 1939 208,000

composed of Poles	
Jews	100,000
Lithuanians	80,000
White Russians,	2,000-3,000
Tatars, Germans,	
etc., approx.	25,000

Addition as the result of the war, i.e., the influx from Western and Central Poland, as of 1 Jan 1940:

Poles	30,000	
Jews	10,000	
- 1 -		40,000

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Addition after turning Vil'nyus over to the Lithuanians  
in Oct 1939; Lithuanian officials, police, and their families: 10,000

Vil'nyus' total population [presumably as of July 1941],  
including Jews 258,000

composed of Poles	130,000	(50%)
Lithuanians	13,000	( 5%)
White Russians		
Tatars, etc.	25,000	(10%)
Jews	90,000	(35%)

Vil'nyus' total population excluding Jews 168,000

composed of Poles	130,000	(77%)
Lithuanians	13,000	( 8%)
White Russians,		
Tatars, etc.	25,000	(15%)

**Sources:**

Captured files of German Army field units and of the Sicherheits-  
polizei und SD.

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